

Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact Program: Key Issues in Achieving Recognition

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Overview



- Provide update on the campus sustainability compact program
- Identify key issues in achieving recognition under the program
- Clarify requirements for meeting two of the sustainability goals
- Tell you where to get more information and help

Compact Commitment Levels



■ Three levels:

- ❑ Bronze – building organization support for sustainability and engaging the campus community
- ❑ Silver – making a targeted commitment to “greening” operations and monitoring performance
- ❑ Gold – integrating sustainability throughout the campus environment and working towards measured improvement

Program Update

- 40 institutions have enrolled
 - Pledge levels:
 - Bronze: 11
 - Silver: 10
 - Gold: 19
- GGCC has received recognition applications from six institutions
- Achievement awards have been approved at the following levels
 - Bronze: 2
 - Gold: 4



Key issues identified during review of recognition applications

- Two issue areas:

- Bronze Level

- Goal #4: Create opportunities for students and faculty to provide suggestions for advancing sustainability on campus
 - Issue: How do you reach out and solicit input?

- Silver Level

- Goal #2: Set measurable sustainability objectives that address the generation of waste and at least three other environmental impacts from buildings or operations
 - Issue: Is the focus on outcomes or activities?

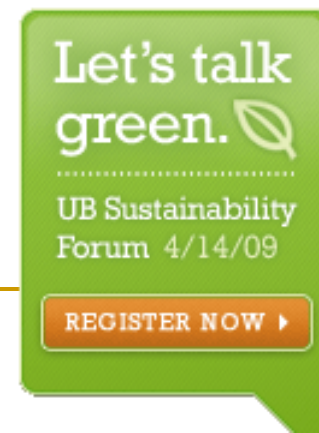
Soliciting input for advancing sustainability on campus

■ Key considerations:

- ❑ What are the means of communication to reach students/faculty?
- ❑ What information do they need to provide substantive input?
- ❑ What are the best times and approaches to involve students/faculty?
- ❑ How do you assess the effectiveness of your outreach methods?

■ Outreach Approaches

- ❑ Online suggestion box
- ❑ Suggestion box located at entrance of sustainability office
- ❑ Social media
 - Blogs, Facebook
- ❑ Student and/or faculty sustainability advisory committee
- ❑ Open forums or workshops



Setting measurable performance objectives

■ Purpose of sustainability objectives:

- ❑ Explain sustainability and focus your actions
- ❑ Measure progress and identify opportunities for improvement
- ❑ Communicate results and build support for future activities

■ Key considerations in setting objectives

- ❑ Focus on outcomes
- ❑ Address significant impacts
- ❑ Apply to campus-wide operations/systems
- ❑ Ability to collect data
- ❑ Are understandable
- ❑ Concern to students, staff and faculty

Analyzing environmental impacts

■ Campus Management Systems

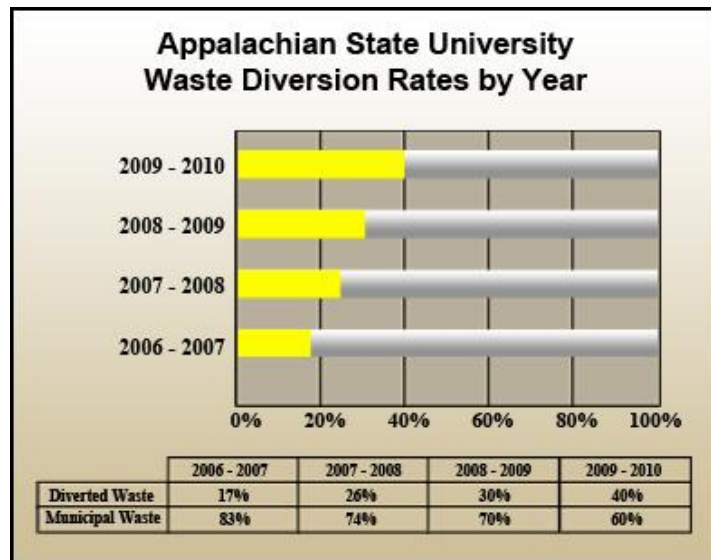
- ❑ Facilities operations and maintenance
- ❑ Solid waste management
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Procurement
- ❑ Food service
- ❑ Land management

■ Natural Resource Use

- ❑ Water
- ❑ Energy
- ❑ Materials



Start with a few indicators



- Solid waste and recycling
- Energy – heating, electricity
- Transportation
- Water Use
- Others
 - Carbon emissions
 - Renewable energy
 - Local foods
 - Composting
 - Natural areas
 - Paper consumption
 - Hazardous materials

Sample Environmental Sustainability Objectives

- Reduce paper usage by 30% by 2013, with 10% reduction annually (2010 baseline) – *Moraine Valley Community College*
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, using 2004 as baseline – *University of Illinois at Chicago*
 - 30% of electricity to be generated by renewable resources by 2020 – *Kankakee Community College*
 - Reduce building energy consumption by 20% by 2015, by 30% by 2020 and 40% by 2025, compared to 2008 – *University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign*
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Tools for evaluating impacts and measuring performance

- Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System
 - <https://stars.aashe.org/>
 - Campus Consortium of Environmental Excellence, Colleges & Universities Self Tracking Tool
 - [www.c2e2.org/tracking tool/index.html](http://www.c2e2.org/tracking_tool/index.html)
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Questions?

